

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DPW-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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R 210620Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8184

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CB, LA

SUBJECT: GRUNK AND GKR VISITS TO LAOS

REF: PHNOM PENH 4016

1. AMPLE COVERAGE WHICH LPF MEDIA HAVE PUMPED OUT IN RECENT DAYS SUPPORTS ASSESSMENT REFTEL REGARDING MOTIVES OF SIHANOUK'S VISIT TO SAM NEUA. IN PUBLIC REMARKS, SIHANOUK HIT THE KEY OF CONTINUED SOLIDARITY AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE 1970 INDOCHINESE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT CONFERENCE MORE OFTEN AND MORE FIRMLY THAN DID SOUPHANOU-VONG. THE LATTER GAVE SOMEWHAT GREATER EMPHASIS TO THE CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LPF AND THE FUNK. BOTH, OF COURSE, INDULGED THEIR STANDARD ANTI-AMERICAN IMPERIALIST LINE AND INVECTIVES AT GKR.

2. "OFFICIAL" VISIT OF SELF-STYLED CHIEF OF STATE, COMING JUST BEFORE LPF ARE TO JOIN COALITION GOVERNMENT, COULD HAVE BEEN IRRITATING TO SOUVANNA. PRIME MINISTER DID NOT, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, SEEM PARTICULARLY BOTHERED BY THIS EXCURSION AND,

WITH HIS OPTIMISTIC CAST OF MIND, HE MIGHT EVEN HAVE CONSIDERED IT ANOTHER ENCOURAGING PORTENT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. WITH FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IMMINENT, SIHANOUK'S VISIT WITH HIS 21-MEMBER ENTOURAGE MAY, IN FACT, BE A "LAST HURRAH" FOR COMMUNIST "DIPLOMATIC REUNIONS" IN THE OLD TOWN SQUARE OF SAM NEUA, WHICH, IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, HAS BEEN SCENE OF RECEPTIONS FOR DELEGATIONS FROM THE PRC, THE DRV AND THE NLF/PRG. BOTH PRINCES NOTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SIHANOUK HAD VISITED THE "LA LIBERATED ZONE," AND THE LATTER ASSERTED THAT, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF STRUGGLE, "IT WOULD BE UNFORGIVABLE" IF HE HAD NOT COME TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR HELP RECEIVED AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LPF FOR THE VICTORIES REPRESENTED BY THE LAO AGREEMENTS. IN RETURN, SOUPHANOUVONG RENEWED PLEDGES OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK, STATING LPF POSITION IS TO RECOGNIZE THE NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF CAMBODIA, WITH SIHANOUK AS CHAIRMAN, AND THE GRUNK, WITH PENN NOUTH AS PRIME MINISTER, AS THE GENUINE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAMBODIA PEOPLE. HE THUS UNDERLINED APPROACH LPF LIKELY TO TAKE IN NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT OPPOSING GKR REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

3. FOR PHNOM PENH: WE DID PROVIDE KEUKY LIM WITH THE FULL FBIS COVERAGE OF THE SAM NEUA SPEECHES AND EVENTS. THROUGH THE EMBASSY, HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND, IN FACT, HIS PARTY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE MATERIAL.

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